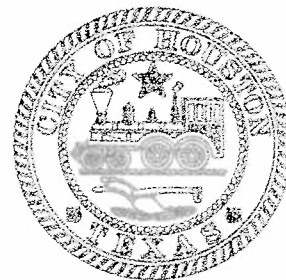


ADRIAN GARCIA

HOUSTON CITY COUNCIL MEMBER, DISTRICT H



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HGAC REGIONAL SAFETY COUNCIL, CHAIR

Dear Neighbor,

The curfew ordinance is meant to prevent young people from entering into compromising situations, not to punish young people who exemplify good behavior. This curfew is meant to provide HPD with a tool to better protect our young people. The violence that occurs between the hours of 10 PM and 12 AM is equivalent to the amount of violence occurring in a 6 hour period (12 AM - 6 AM). These statistics motivated me to better protect the young people of Houston.

When I was the Director of the Anti-Gang Office, I put in place a structured redirection program in the municipal court program, which is known as the Juvenile Accountability Court Program that provides young people with educational workshops that focus on issues, such as "Youth and the Law", the dangers of gang involvement, and also has a community service component that has participants painting over graffiti, picking up trash in parks, sorting food at the Houston Food Bank, etc. If he/she successfully completes the court ordered sanctions, then the ticket is dismissed-no fines are collected. The program is a monumental success.

The goal was to prevent young people from going on to higher rungs in the Criminal Justice System where the consequences are much more severe and longer lasting. The proposed times came from input from meetings with various agencies including HISD and that is why Fridays and Saturdays were separated from the rest of the week.

The following are **the proposed changes to the present ordinance**:

Applies to those younger than 17 years of age

Weeknights (Sunday- Thursday) 10 PM- 6 AM

Weekends (Friday - Saturday) 11 PM- 6 AM

Exceptions:

Under existing ordinances, curfews would not apply to youth accompanied by a parent; attending a school, religious or government-sponsored activity; commuting to or from work; or dealing with a family emergency.

Please contact my office at (713) 247-2003 if you should have any questions or concerns.

Thank you,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Adrian Garcia".